Avon Past 9

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EDITORS: Miss P. Jones,
c/o Bristol City Museum, Queen's Rd., Bristol 8.

Miss J. Scherr,
21, Caledonia Place, Clifton, Bristol. BS8 4DL.

Editorial communications should be sent to either of the two addresses above. Advertising, subscriptions and other administrative matters will be dealt with by Mrs. L. Hamid and correspondence should be addressed to:

'Avon Past',
Avon Community Council,
209, Redland Road,
Bristol. BS6 6YU
Tel. Bristol 736822.

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Netham Bleach Packers in 1883 reproduced by Courtesy of Imperial Chemical Industries plc.

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EDITORIAL

Much in the air at the moment are the unofficial polls being held in various towns and villages of Avon which seem to show unanimous dissatisfaction with Avon and a desire to return to Somerset or Gloucestershire. Charges of a self-centred bureaucracy based in Bristol have been levelled at Avon County Council. Readers of the current issue of *Avon Past* may perhaps share this feeling that Bristol is taking too much of the limelight. Nevertheless, we have tried, from the material sent in to us, to select a variety of topics and periods - including, this time, architecture, industry and education. Perhaps it should come as no surprise that Kingswood, once again, provides a counterbalance to Bristol. The popularity of *Avon Past* No. 7. (Autumn 1982) which was entirely about Kingswood provides further evidence of the liveliness of local historical and archaeological interest in the district.

We hope you see the involvement of the A.A.C. and the A.L.H.A. in the production of *Avon Past* as a positive step, providing an outlet for the widespread activity in local archaeology and history which we know to exist in the area now called "Avon". Certainly, we are seeking to attract news and views, reports and research, from right across the county - and beyond. Can it be that would-be authors from Hill to Harptree, and Bleadon to Badminton, have found alternative outlets? Or is it rather that your own research topic remains unreported - because unwritten? We look forward to hearing from you!

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K. MANCHESTER: **THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF DISEASE** — University of Bradford Press	£12.50

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

HAROLD BROWN graduated from the University of Bristol in 1925, and was history master at Cotham Grammar School from 1940-46. After two years lecturing at the Wimpole Training College, Cambridge, he became an H.M.I. for schools in Worcestershire until 1960. He is the author of *Bristol – England* published by the Burleigh Press.

RAY HOLLAND has spent all his life in the chemical industry. He has been associated with the Society of Chemical Industry since 1962 in various offices and is currently Assistant Secretary of the Bristol Section. He is interested in the history of chemical industry and is currently researching the alkali industry.

MRS. PATRICIA LINDEGAARD has recently given up her job to concentrate full-time on the professional researching of enquiries about family history, as well as continuing her other Kingswood researches. She is a member of both the Bristol and Avon and Gloucestershire Family History Societies, is married and has three children.

BRYAN LITTLE, a nationally - known writer on local history, topography and architecture, is one of the authors of *Bristol: an architectural history* (1979). He has made a special study of Georgian architecture. We hope to review his latest booklet on *Cabot: the reality* (1983) in our next issue.

MICHAEL S MANSON moved to Bristol in 1974 having graduated from Leicester University. Whilst living in Redcliffe Parade he became fascinated by the history of the ancient parishes of South Bristol - Redcliffe, Temple and St. Thomas. "Beyond the Bridge", the results of his research into this area, is hopefully to be published in 1985. He works for Avon Careers Service and is their Careers Advisor attached to Radio West Helpline.

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REDLAND HIGH SCHOOL: THE BUILDINGS AND THEIR ARCHITECTS

by Bryan Little

In 1882, Redland High School, Bristol, celebrated its centenary. Although teaching had begun, two years earlier, in two rented houses, it was in 1882 that the school obtained the status of a High School. In 1885 came the move into the beautiful buildings of Redland Court. It seems timely to look more closely at the buildings occupied by the school, at the life of the architect who designed Redland Court, and at later work at the school by architects of importance in the local secene.

Redland Court, replacing an earlier mansion, was started in 1732. The owner, John Cossins, had been a prosperous London grocer who had married Martha Innys, a daughter of a Bristol lawyer but coming from the aristocratic Scottish family of Innes in Morayshire. Cossins retired from London business and settled down as a country gentleman on the rural outskirts of Bristol. For the architect of his compact mansion, with its two wings, Cossins chose John Strahan, by now established in Bristol, but to judge by his name almost certainly from Scotland and perhaps from Morayshire where Mrs. Cossins' family originated. If Strahan was of Scottish ancestry his career in Bristol was a West Country parallel to that of the more talented and eminent James Gibbs, the tercentenrary of whose birth (like that of John Cossins) fell in 1982.

Little is known about Strahan's life. The date of his birth has not, so far, been discovered, and I have been unable to find where in Bristol he lived. He seems to have died in 1742, so that his Bristol activity only covered seventeen years. Soon after coming to Bristol he designed a fine new organ gallery for the West end of the nave of St. Mary Redcliffe. About 1730, and for the next few years, he was engaged, in collaboration with Hobbs the Bristol timber merchant, on building work in Bath, in the Kingsmead area, in Beaufort Square, and on the three-arched bridge (the forerunner of the present New Bridge) on the Bath to Bristol road. In 1732 he started work on Redland Court. In the same year, a bust of him is said to have been made by Rysbrack, who had, six years earlier, made the mural monument, in St. John's on the Wall, to Andrew Innys who was John Cossins' father-in-law. He may also, between 1731 and 1733, have been the architect of the attractive Georgian mansion of Frampton Court at Frampton-on-Severn. He was probably the original architect of Redland Chapel which was started in 1740 and finished after his death.

Whatever his background, Strahan seems not, by training and conviction, to have been a complete exponent of the Palladian taste. For this, and other things, he was spitefully criticised by the more commitedly Palladian John Wood the elder of Bath, who referred to his "piratical architecture" in his *Essay towards a description of Bath* (1749), (p341-2). Though Redland Court is typically Palladian in its composition of a central block and two identical balancing wings, and though window surrounds of the type seen round the ground-floor windows of its wings also appear in Palladian houses and those

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by Gibbs, some of its details and exterior proportions look back to the late Baroque tradition displayed in other contemporary Bristol buildings. This earlier taste appears, in particular, in some windows and fireplaces, in various rooms, which recall those in houses by Strahan in Kingsmead and Beaufort Squares in Bath.

But in general, Redland Court, on its sloping site and with a dignified double staircase on its lower side, is typical of the middle-sized country houses of its time. Its upper balustrade is crowned with a row of Baroque urns, and the arms of Cossins fill its pediment, while his crest is in the curved pediment over the back doorway by which one enters the house from the drive. Inside, the central saloon, with its dignified classical doorway and rich plasterwork, is the finest room, while the first floor is approached by a noble staircase in the joinery taste of the 1730's. Some later alterations were made, after Strahan's death, by Thomas Paty.

Though most of the surrounding estate was eventually sold off for building, the house and its immediate grounds had not changed much when Redland Court was bought by the High School and occupied in 1885. Many changes have been made since that time. The first, in 1887, was one for which planning permission could not, nowadays, be obtained. What happened was the upward extension of the eastern wing, removing the cupola originally put there and seriously damaging the symmetry of Strahan's composition; this addition was made to provide living accommodation for the headmistress.

The next major changes, giving the school important extra buildings of good neo-Georgian quality, came in 1911-12, when the stables were converted, and refronted in the Edwardian Baroque manner, to provide various class rooms and what is now the assembly hall. An attractive separate building was the library built in memory of Miss Elizabeth Cocks, the first headmistress.

The architects for all this work were the well-known Bristol partnership of Oatley and Lawrence. The same firm, now Oatley and Brentnall, has remained the school's architects, and has been responsible for the extra buildings finished in 1933, and for the extensions needed in the 1950's and 1960's.

FURTHER READING

Frampton Court (Frampton-on-Severn)

Country Life (Oct. 8th and 15th, 1927).
B. Little, *Gloucestershire Countryside* (July - Sept. 1952).

Redland Court (Bristol)

A. Gomme *et al. Bristol: an architectural history,* Lund Humphries, 1979.
W. Ison. *The Georgian buildings of Bristol,* Faber, 1952.
B. Little. *The Life and Work of James Gibbs, 1682-1754,* Batsford 1955

The view of Redland Court in the early nineteenth century (p. 5), is from a plate by J & H. S. Storer in an extra-illustrated copy of *The Annals of Bristol 1600 - 1900,* by John Latimer (Vol. VI, Bristol, 1906) and appears by kind permission of the Librarian, University of Bristol.

The Loxton drawing of Redland High School (p. 6) is reproduced by kind permission of the Reference Librarian, Avon County Library (Bristol).

THE MARK OF CAIN : THE COCK ROAD GANG

by Patricia Lindegaard.

"And Cain said ..... 'I shall be a fugitive and vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass that every one that findeth me shall slay me'. And the Lord set a mark upon Cain lest any finding him should kill him. *Genesis* IV 13-15.

Amongst the sixty or so male inhabitants of the hamlet of Oldland and who attended the Court Leet along with my own forebear, John Pillinger, was the patriarch of a family who was to provide the district with a long running entertainment of a grisly nature for years to come. The name of the patriarch was ironic, truth after all being stranger than fiction; his name was Caines, Benjamin Caines. Even without the Biblical connotation the name Caines was already imbued with a certain notoriety in the parish of Bitton. In 1727, Abraham Caines "part of a gang, some of them his brothers" was hanged at Gloucester for stealing sheep from a Mr Perker and a furnace from Josias Robbins. Like those who came later, he did not specialise.

Benjamin Caines, who was born abut 1757, married Ann Cool in the parish Church of Bitton in 1777. The union produced 10 children and one cannot but wonder at family life at the Caines' *ménage* in the light of developments. For these children, babyhood and green youth passed either without incident or in undetected crime. It could not go on forever. In 1799, George Caines, the eldest son of Benjamin and Ann, aged 22 was sentenced to a year's imprisonment at Monmouth for passing counterfeit money. When arrested with his accomplice, Francis Britton, he was well-mounted (on a stolen horse) and had on him a number of forged guineas. George survived prison and lived to return to his native haunts, but it was his younger brother Francis Caines who was now to move into the spotlight. At Bath in 1804, Francis, an oyster and cider seller, was charged with stealing £400's worth of fine cloth. He had three accomplices, Thomas Batt and Charles Fuller (*alias* 'The Squire') and another unknown. Having taken supper at Bath at ten in the evening, they progressed to Bathford where they broke open a stable and stole a horse and cart. At midnight they arrived at their destination of Freshford, loaded up the cloth from a warehouse on to their stolen cart and drove under cover of friendly darkness back to Bath to a coach-house (hired for the purpose by The Squire) where they hid the loot. Francis was unlucky; he was it seems the only one of the gang to be caught and paid the extreme penalty. He was hanged at Ilchester two months later. The body was brought home to Oldland and thence to the parish church at Bitton for burial, a melancholy event turned bizarre by the behaviour of young Benjamin Caines, Francis's younger brother, barely eleven years old. Young Ben mounted the church yard wall, where amidst the weeping he pursed his lips and whistled throughout the proceedings. Subsequent events, not least his own fate, would make this whistling in the dark sound like black prophecy.

Betty Caines, the eldest daughter of the family, was at the time of the funeral living with Timothy Bush, son of a coalmining family in the village. Two sons were born of this union, James Caines *alias* Bush, in 1805 and Francis, named for his departed uncle, in 1807. Timothy Bush became embroiled in the criminal activities of his 'non-in-laws' and after a short life of crime was convicted of horse-theft and transported to live out the rest of his days on the other side of the world. With Tim as good as dead, Betty lost no time in forming another

liaison, this time with one George Groves, by whom she had a third son, Thomas Caines *alias* Groves.

George Caines, undeterred by gaol and his brother's execution, had fallen in with "two well known characters, Cribb and Hathaway". Having stolen some pigs (which were housed in his sister Betty's front parlour) in association with Isaac Cox *alias* Lewis, who was arrested by the constables, George took the law into his own hands. He attempted to rescue his friend Cox from the custody of Benjamin Curtis by beating Curtis with the butt end of his gun with intent to kill. Reinforcements arrived and he was arrested. Meanwhile the family had formed a loose association known hereinafter as 'The Cock Road Gang' after the hamlet within Oldland, deep in Kingswood Forest, where they lived.

One night, James Francis, due to give evidence against George Caines was disturbed at midnight by shots and had "three balls discharged into his bedroom where his children were sleeping". Fortunately no-one was hurt, but it was sufficient to cook George's goose. He was condemned to death but was luckier than Francis; the sentence was commuted to transportation for life.

Another of George's associates, Isaac Cribb, was likewise apprehended and housed in the lock-up at Bitton. Under the captaincy of yet another brother, Thomas Caines, the mob rose, displaying their own sense of honour among thieves, to effect Cribb's rescue. These forays into what was the enemy territory of the constables do not seem to have been carefully thought out. A string of people were arrested in the conflict which ensued, when the Bitton constables Moses Batt and Charles Bull were reinforced by a posse of police which arrived from Bristol. Isaac Cribb, a fish carrier, remained in gaol to take his trial, was convicted, but escaped from the Portsmouth hulks whence he was awaiting his transport. He was eventually transported in 1819.

Felix Farley's Bristol Journal reported "the *Banditti* are now housed until March next; we trust the approaching winter will now be divested of many of its terrors and that peaceful individuals will now be divested of many of its terrors and that peaceful individuals will now sleep in safety". 'Captain' Thomas Caines, so styled by the newspapers, giving him a certain glamour, got two years. Benjamin – the whistler on the wall – was acquitted.

Although crime continued in a small way, the honest citizens of Oldland took the opportunity of the lull to do some thinking of their own. They formed the Kingswood Association, aimed at rooting out the wrongdoers, and though the magistrates, noting correctly that such a vigilante group could get into trouble on its own account, gave a tacit nod, they refused to give open support. The Association went ahead and formed a military wing called 'The Bitton Cavalry' headed by Thomas Bevan, who emulated Tom Caines in styling himself 'Captain'. The Association rounded up a few small fry, mainly rowdies and fowl stealers. With Francis hanged, George transported and Thomas in gaol there was little for anyone to do but wait.

Benjamin Caines, the whistler, now aged 23, not in the least discouraged that crime for the family had been seen not to pay, decided to go out on a 'tickle' of his own. With two others, James Bryant "a fellow of most forbidding aspect" and Henry Wilmot, he set off to burgle the house of Sarah Prigg, an elderly woman living with her nephew at Bitton. James Evans, the nephew, testified that he was confronted by three men, masked, one armed with a sword and another with a pistol, who threatened to kill him if he "wagged". They pushed him under a quilt but by lifting a corner he was able to recognise one man

who stood in a shaft of moonlight and removed his mask – Benjamin Caines. The old woman cried "Murder" as she jumped out of her bed, but was knocked down by one of the intruders who robbed her 'pockets' which were lying at the foot of her bed.

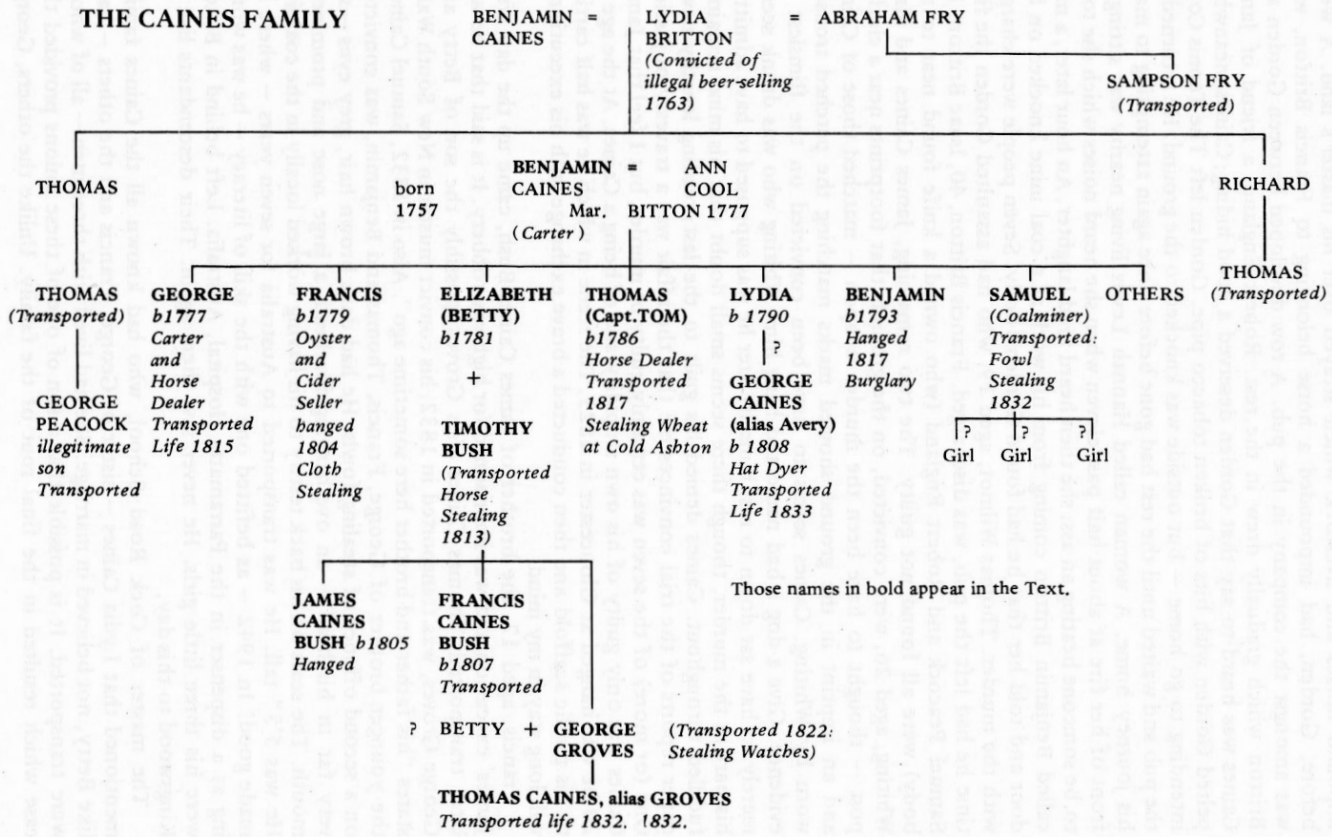
Benjamin Caines, recognised by two parties in the bungled burglary, was arrested at once. Captain Tom, newly released from gaol, remained optimistic, he no doubt felt that he could effect Benjamin's release with the help of the gang – but meanwhile had business of his own. He reckoned without the Bitton Cavalry. A private 'soldier' in the organisation (so far un-named) – for all he is reported as "the gallant private" – apprehended him in the act of taking away several sacks of wheat from an inn at Cold Ashton where a Mr Dolling was landlord.

In 1817, the brothers came up at the same assizes. Thomas was dealt with first; convicted and sentenced to seven years over the seas. For Benjamin, the verdict was death. Indeed the judge would have gone further, saying that he had had a mind to have had him hung in chains as an example to the rest of his gang – but had decided on leniency. Benjamin was merely to be hanged in the regular way.

The body was carried from Gloucester by his remaining brothers and brought to Oldland, where at his father's house it was exhibited for a small fee to interested parties in order to defray the funeral expenses. It is likely that the whole population turned out, eager to hand over their coppers, for the collection resulted in a funeral such as was never seen before in the neighbourhood. The distance between home and church was two miles and the way was flanked throughout by a "numerous concourse" of his acquaintances, many of whom must have travelled far. The pall was supported by six females, dressed entirely in white. The church was packed. The minister preached a very impressive sermon on the theme "Let him who stole, steal no more". The body was finally committed to the grave by candlelight, to lie beside the body of Francis, interred thirteen years before, at whose funeral, Ben had whistled. James Caines Bush, Betty's boy, was about the same age that Ben had been at Francis's funeral. His mother watched him carefully, lest he should make a single sound.

What remained of the gang went on a vicious rampage. A horse belonging to the Bitton constable was hamstrung and a fine cow, the property of the same man was "houghed & mangled" in a similar manner. Corn ricks were burnt down. Houses, gardens and fields were plundered. One Henry Willis was charged with maiming and killing a bay mare, belonging to George Haskins, a constable. Eight persons surrounded a house in neighbouring St George, and attempted to enter by forcing a window shutter. When disturbed they panicked and fired several times through the window, wounding those therein, and escaped. The mob fury finally petered out and it was a number of years before another Caines was to come to the fore. In 1822, George Groves, second common law husband of Betty Caines was transported for stealing watches. Whatever his faults, he was the second 'father' that James Caines had lost. Growing up amongst feckless relations, not very bright and possibly even simple minded, he had not the slightest chance in life from the start. Above all the others, James Caines Bush is a figure of starkest tragedy.

On 27th November 1824, he and others were drinking in a public house which still stands at the bottom of Warmley Hill, The Tennis Court. A man called Isaac Gorden came in. Gorden was employed by John Brain of Bitton to


THE CAINES FAMILY
BENJAMIN CAINES = LYDIA BRITTON (Convicted of illegal beer-selling 1763) = ABRAHAM FRY
SAMPSON FRY (Transported)
THOMAS
born 1757
BENJAMIN CAINES (Carter) Mar. = ANN COOL BITTON 1777
RICHARD
THOMAS (Transported)
GEORGE PEACOCK illegitimate son Transported
GEORGE b1777 Carter and Horse Dealer Transported Life 1815
FRANCIS b1779 Oyster and Cider Seller hanged 1804 Cloth Stealing
ELIZABETH (BETTY) b1781 + TIMOTHY BUSH (Transported Horse Stealing 1813)
THOMAS (Capt.TOM) b1786 Horse Dealer Transported 1817 Stealing Wheat at Cold Ashton
LYDIA b 1790 ? GEORGE CAINES (alias Avery) b 1808 Hat Dyer Transported Life 1833
BENJAMIN b1793 Hanged 1817 Burglary
SAMUEL (Coalminer) Transported: Fowl Stealing 1832
OTHERS
? Girl ? Girl ? Girl
THOMAS (Transported)
JAMES CAINES BUSH b1805 Hanged
FRANCIS CAINES BUSH b1807 Transported
? BETTY + GEORGE GROVES (Transported 1822: Stealing Watches)
THOMAS CAINES, alias GROVES Transported life 1832. 1832.
Those names in bold appear in the Text.

impound horses and livestock which strayed over his master's land. A week before, Gorden, had impounded a horse belonging to Francis Britton, who was amongst the company in the pub. A row developed between Gorden and Britton which gradually drew in the rest. Robert England, a friend of James Caines was heard to say that Gorden deserved a good hiding; Caines meanwhile pelted Gorden with bits of broken tobacco pipe. Gorden left The Tennis Court intending to go home – but outside was knocked to the ground. He returned to the pub and waited until the rest had gone before once again attempting to make his journey home. A woman called Hannah Lewis living nearby was sitting in front of her fire at about half past eleven when she heard noises which she took to be someone beating an ass; she then heard loud laughter. An hour later, a man called Benjamin Britton coming from his work at a coal mine knocked on her door and told her that he had found Gorden's body. Seven people were charged with the murder. Thomas Wilmot, aged 19, who had assaulted Gorden the first time he had left the pub, was discharged. Francis Britton, 40, Isaac Britton, 18, Samuel Peacock and Robert England (who owned a knife found near to the body) were all found not guilty. The two remaining, James Caines and Mark Whiting, aged 26, were convicted, on the grounds that footprints near a clothes post – thought to have been the murder weapon – matched those of Caines and an imprint in the ground showed marks matching the patched trousers worn by Whiting. Caines seems to have been convicted on the flimsiest of evidence. Give a dog a bad name and hang him. Whiting who was drunk seems merely to have sat down to rest himself; later he was supposed to have admitted his part in the murder, though there seems small doubt that his mind remained fuddled throughout. Caines denied his guilt to the last; reading lengthy newspaper reports of the trial convinces me that the affair was a travesty of justice. One (or more) of the seven was certainly guilty of murder, but I feel that James Caines was only guilty of his own stupidity and of being a Caines. At the age of 20 he was hanged at Gloucester in 1825. The scene in which he was half carried to his public scaffold and then conducted a brave exchange with his executioner will long stay in my mind.

Francis, aged 17, the brother of James Caines Bush, came up the day after James' execution and was imprisoned for highway robbery. It is said that he was later transported. Thomas Caines *alias* Groves, possibly the son of Betty and George Groves, was transported in 1832; his convict muster in New South Wales states "his father and brother here sometime ago". Also in 1832, Samuel Caines, the younger brother of George, Francis, Thomas and Benjamin, was convicted on a second offence of stealing fowls. He had dark brown hair, grey eyes – set very far in his head – an overhanging forehead, a large nose and prominent mouth. The scars on his back testify to his having worked locally in the coalpits. He was 5'5" tall. He was transported to Australia for seven years – where he made good! In 1942 – as befitted one with the skill of literacy – he was working as a dispenser in the Parramatta Hospital, Australia. Left behind in Bitton were his three little girls. He never saw them again. Their descendants live in Kingswood to this day.

The master of Cock Road School, who had known all the Caines family mentioned that Lydia Caines – sister of George, Francis and the others – had, like Betty, not believed in marriage. She had lived with three men – all of whom were transported. It is possible that a son of one of these unions provided the case which resulted in the final rout of the family. Unlike the others, George

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Caines *alias* Avery seems to have been big time. His haul – taken from the house of William Blathwayt of Dyrham – was 1 silver tankard, 12 silver dress buckles, 30 shirts, 1 gold brooch, gold seals, rings and other articles. Large as the booty was the crime was still unsuccessful and he was committed to Gloucester prison. Like the rest his conduct in gaol was orderly: it seemed incumbent on the Caines as a point of honour to serve their home without complaining. He was transported for life in 1833, having had no previous conviction: a hat dyer by trade, he was 5'8½" tall, with sandy hair and grey eyes; like his Uncle Samuel he could read.

Of the male issue of the family there were now very few left in Kingswood. Samuel, as we have seen, survived the hulks and the journey to Australia and eventual honest employment. George (who for his time was a giant of a man, over 6 feet tall) also survived; having served 7 years of his life sentence he was granted a conditional pardon. In the same year, 'Captain Tom' his brother, also still very much alive was given a 'ticket of leave'. Theoretically he could then leave the penal colony if he desired – and if he could raise his fare home! Neither returned to England; their occupation as horse dealers seems to have particularly suited them to their life in the new country. It is my guess that they set off together into the wide blue yonder – Australia being a great deal bigger than Oldland Common. There is no evidence that they got into any further trouble. They may have viewed the convict musters from time to time for arrivals from the old country – and must have heard of James' execution from newly arrived nephews. The literate Samuel may have written home so that this news was a two way traffic.

Apart from a few minor misdemeanours, those of the family who were left got into no more trouble. The name continued to be bandied about and took some living down – as is evidence by the experience of one Edwin Caines in 1842. It is not known if he was related to the rest, but ..... walking into a pub in Bath he met people who knew of the family 'troubles'. Edwin was subjected to taunts and finally severely beaten about the face. Eventually he drew a knife in self defence and turned on his tormentors. Despite the "great provocation" he had suffered, which the judge acknowledged, he too was transported.

Postcript

Since writing the above, I have discovered further adventures of the Caines family in Australia.

George, who received his ticket of leave in 1821, became a dealer and later a butcher in Castlereagh Street, Sydney. In the 1840's he was landlord of "The Jolly Sailor" in Parramatta. It seems logical to suppose that the choice of name for his pub was nostalgic – in memory of the pub of the same name in Hanham which he must have known in the days of his youth.

Francis Caines Bush, brother of the executed James, arrived in Tasmania in May 1826 aboard the *Woodman*, at the age of eighteen. By 1843 he had received a full pardon and like his uncle, kept a pub in Liverpool Street, Hobart. The name he chose for his premises was not inappropriate considering what had gone on before. It was "Help me through the World".

SOURCES

Mrs. Lindegaard wishes to acknowledge her particular indebtedness to Mrs. I. Wyatt's article on the Cock Road gang, listed below.

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THE NETHAM CHEMICAL COMPANY LIMITED

by Ray Holland

Many of you will have travelled down Netham Road towards the River Avon and the Feeder and seen the new Netham Industrial Park on one side and the playing field on the other, but did you know it had been the site of the largest manufacturing works in Bristol occupying 65 acres?

The foundations of this great alkali works were laid in the 1840's. The *Bristol Mirror* (29th March 1845) reported that Henderson and Vesey's Netham Works were bankrupt and being taken over by Stephen Cox who, in 1852, in partnership with a Mr. Score, set up as 'Vitriol & Alkali Manufacturers'. The partnership was soon dissolved and Cox became bankrupt in 1859. Then the Chemical Works was taken over by the principal creditors and run under the style of Thomas, Prichard & Wethered Limited. On 5 August, 1859 the Netham Chemical Company Limited was registered. According to the Memorandum & Articles of Association, the Company was carrying on the business of 'Manufacturers of Vitriol, Alkali, Soda and other Chemical Compounds'.

On 1 March 1861, Philip John Worsley was appointed Assistant Manager. After three months probation he was made Manager. Under his leadership Netham chemicals gained a high repute and were in constantly increasing demand. The Works was registered under the Alkali Works Act 1863 and was No. 20 on the original register.

On 22 October 1890, the Netham Chemical Company Limited was merged into the United Alkali Company Limited. This Company was one of the four founder firms of Imperial Chemical Industries when it was founded on 1 January, 1927.

Photograph (1) taken in 1923 shows the immense size of the Works. It was finally closed down in 1949.

The Works was mainly on the site of the Industrial Park with frontage on to the River Avon and the playing field with frontage on to the Feeder Canal was mainly the waste heap or dumping ground. The *Western Daily Press* reported (18th August 1954) that "this dump will become one of Bristol's largest playing fields". It was levelled and grassed over by the Bristol Corporation.

The main processes at Netham were the Chamber Process making sulphuric acid (Vitriol) and the classic Leblanc Soda process.

Sulphur dioxide from roasted pyrites (iron sulphide) was converted into sulphuric acid by the action of nitrogen dioxide and water. The chemical reactions took place in huge lead lined chambers.

Salt was heated with sulphuric acid to form sodium sulphate ('Saltcake') and for every ton of salt decomposed about twelve hundredweights of hydrochloric acid gas went into the atmosphere!

Saltcake was then heated in rotating cylindrical furnaces (Revolvers) with coal and limestone to produce sodium carbonate and calcium sulphide (the mixture being called 'black ash'). Finally the black ash was treated with water to 'lixiviate' (dissolve and extract) the sodium carbonate, the solution being

evaporated to yield "washing soda" crystals or furnaced to make anhydrous soda ash.

The remaining calcium sulphide ('galligu') was deposited on waste heaps which grew at an alarming rate over the years and from which the smell of hydrogen sulphide - bad eggs! - was released in wet weather.

One of the main by-products of the Leblanc process was bleaching powder. To make this, chlorine was generated from hydrochloric acid by manganese mud (the Weldon process) or decomposed in the presence of air and steam over a catalyst (the Deacon process), and absorbed in slaked lime spread in thin layers on shelves in large bleach chambers.

When P. J. Worsley took over in 1861 he knew the theory of the processes but in practice it was all new to him. In learning the business at first hand he found that the works foreman "an old fellow, named Ward, was quite incapable and doing harm". He dismissed Ward and promoted Thomas Thomas who had worked for a time in a chemical works at Swansea as works foreman.

The long working hours and exposure to heat and choking gases tended to make the workers heavy drinkers and in many works a boy was employed to bring drink to the place of work.

P. J. Worsley soon found "there was too much drinking and for want of checking their work they often spoiled the materials by want of care and laziness, beside doing far less than a proper quantity for their days work". He 'put his foot down' and stopped beer drinking during working hours.

In spite of this decision, it is interesting to note that in September, 1882 an agreement was drawn up between the Netham Chemical Company and Stephen Maggs of the Wagon and Horses whereby the Company leased to him "all that messuage, dwelling house and public house with the brew house and skittle alley and the garden ground behind same". However, it seems I.C.I. discouraged the ownership of 'pubs' and the Wagon and Horses was sold on 13 January, 1937 to a Bristol Brewery Company.

A local reporter of the *Bristol Times and Mirror* visited the Works in 1883 and found it a grim place with ugly and depressing buildings combined with unpleasant conditions for the workmen.

In any alkali works the workers were divided into 'process workers' - the makers of chemicals and 'yard men' - the general labourers.

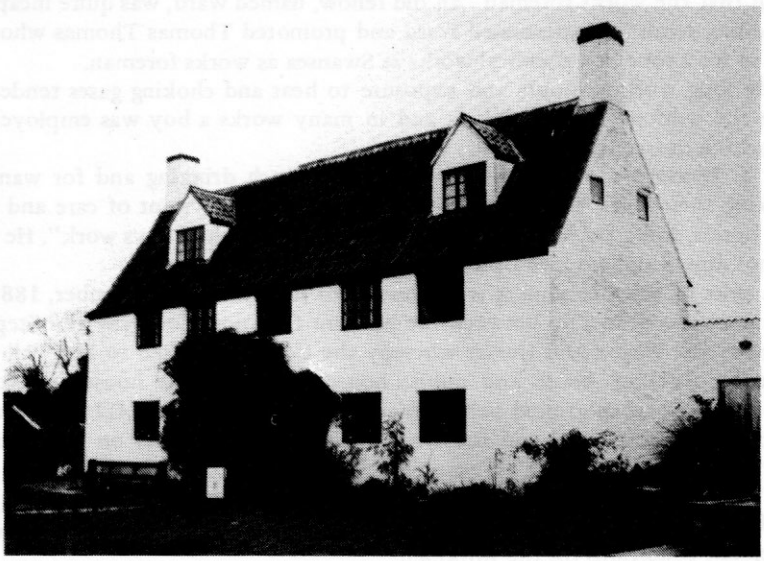
Process men generally belonged to one of five groups - vitriol, saltcake, revolver, finishing or bleach. In the vitriol section the men working the pyrites burners were exposed to heat and cold and to sulphur dioxide and nitrous fumes. The pyrites lumps, if too large, would have been broken down to size by a yard man - often this was a job for a man in poor health.

The saltcake operators or 'potmen' were the roughest in the works. They had to charge, rake and empty saltcake furnaces and were exposed to gushes of hydrochloric acid gas. R. H. Sherard in *The White Slaves of England* wrote that a saltcake man could be recognised by his having no teeth and the saltcake department was characterised by the piles of bread crusts which the men could not eat! He recorded that one potman joked "supposing I have to pay fifteen

A new publication from the
City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery:

THE RURAL HOUSES OF NORTH AVON AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1400 - 1720

by Linda J. Hall



The first extensive survey of the domestic architecture of the region, there are chapters on the plans, construction, decorative details, outbuildings, documentary history and dating of hundreds of houses, with a full bibliography, glossary and gazetteer of 67 typical and not-so-typical houses. There are 317 pages fully illustrated by 148 line drawings and 68 photographs. The price is £12.50 from the Museum shop.

City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery **Monograph No. 6.**

shillings a week for my tommy (food) I'll have to pay five shillings more to someone to gollop it for me".

The revolver men who furnaced saltcake, coal and limestone to make blackash were a more intelligent kind. The senior workmen in this department had the responsibility of deciding when to stop heating and to pour the blackash 'balls' into the waiting bogies. This was done by inspecting the surface of the pasty mass for colour, consistency and the burning of the evolved carbon monoxide in yellow 'soda candles'. If the mass was poured too soon the balls were 'green' and if too late, they were 'burnt'; in both cases soda was lost.

Finishing men were responsible for the lixiviation and crystallisation of soda and sometimes for the treatment with quick lime to make caustic soda. Finishing was not a particularly arduous job but it carried the risk of falling into a vat. W. A. Campbell in *A Century of Chemistry on Tyneside, 1868 - 1968* wrote that "a middle aged man was charged at Hebburn Police Court in May, 1888 with being drunk and disorderly having fallen into a soda vat at 1.00 a.m. Sunday morning. It was said that his clothes were stiff enough to stand up by themselves and he was discharged as having been sufficiently punished already".

The lime dressers and bleach packers were by far the best paid workers and they considered themselves the elite of the works. Their job was certainly dangerous for chlorine rose from the bleaching powder as it was disturbed and it was impossible to pack the bleach into casks or remain for a few seconds in a bleach chamber unless the worker was protected. He would have smeared grease on his hands and arms, worn a mask of dampened flannel wrappings, the layers of which stood out three inches beyond his fact to prevent the gas reaching his lungs, and goggles.

The cover photograph taken in 1883 of bleach packers at Netham Works was most probably taken by Cyrus Voss Bark. The *Bristol Times and Mirror* report in 1883 of a visit to the Works concludes: "an idea of the hard and disagreeable character of much of the work that is done at Netham is conveyed by a series of group photographs taken by Mr. Voss Bark, by his new instantaneous gelatine process. The men employed by the company are taken by 'shops' - the workers in the soda shop, the smiths, the basket makers and so on, separately; and they are certainly brought out - features, clothes, dirt and all - with marvellous clearness and fidelity".

Mr. Reece Winstone in his book *Bristol in the 1880's* (1962; plate 130) shows the Victoria Rooms and the studio with the name "C. V. Bark late Beattie and Bark". Views taken by C. V. Bark are preserved in Mr. Winstone's collection but regrettably he knows nothing of the Netham Works series. Perhaps a reader may shed light on the missing photographs. Any information concerning the Netham Works would be welcomed by the writer in his researches into the activities of the Netham Chemical Company Limited.

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UNWILLINGLY TO SCHOOL: EASTON BOARD SCHOOL, 1905 to 1910

by Harold Brown

Life in the Infants' School

One January morning in 1905 I set off for school grasping my mother's hand tightly as we made our way through the crowd of youngsters milling around the asphalt playground of the Easton Infants' School. It was all very frightening, and there were many tears as I was left behind; but at least there were plenty of others to share my misery, for in those days classes rarely fell below forty in number, and often rose above fifty.

My first impression was of a dark cloakroom, reeking with the acrid odour of damp coats hung in serried rows in the poorly ventilated room. Only one other part of the school premises exceeded it in gloom and repulsiveness – the so-called 'lavatories'. These were at the bottom end of the playground, and consisted mainly of a long trough with a stout wooden cover, pierced at regular intervals with roughly circular holes, each hole being separated from the next by a wooden partition. A large water tank above one end of the trough slowly filled with a considerable quantity of water, which was then suddenly released to flush down the whole system. To be seated upon a 'throne' at the time of flushing would have been a traumatic experience, so these times were arranged to coincide with class periods.

Uninviting though the lavatories might be, the children soon learned that they afforded practically the only means of escape from classroom routine. "Please may I leave the room?" became the password which led to a few moments of release. Inexperienced teachers found that the constant stream of youngsters wandering in and out disturbed classroom routine inordinately, and they had to develop some skill in detecting the genuine requests from the false. It could be a tricky business, for a wrong decision might easily lead to a catastrophe – a mired child who had to be sent home to be cleaned up. A visit from an irate parent could be safely forecasted as a sequel.

I don't know whether young children at the turn of the century were innately weaker than their successors of today, or whether at that time there was more malnutrition than now, but I do remember vividly that cases of sickness were frequent. A bucket of sawdust and a broom were kept handy, while for the very young children there was a wooden cot near the headmistress's desk, in which the sick could recover under supervision. School meals then lay far in the future, and at twelve o'clock sharp the school emptied except for those unfortunates who had to subsist on sandwiches brought from home. In summer such a meal had to be consumed in the playground; only when the weather was really bad were children allowed to remain in the classroom.

The outstanding aim of the school was to teach the Three R's with utmost speed. We soon learned to recognise the letters of the alphabet by parading up and down with boards hung around our necks, each bearing the imprint of a large letter about a foot square. Quite a number of games could be played with these mobile letters, and undoubtedly the first steps in spelling were undertaken with their use. There was much class teaching and learning by rote; in fact, I can remember one classroom which was tiered like a lecture theatre, the rows of tiny desks being securely fastened to the floor. 'Talk and Chalk' occupied a good deal of each day, as was evidenced by the most striking items of classroom

furniture apart from the children's desks, namely a large blackboard mounted on castors, and a massive teacher's desk complete with tip-up seat. Blackboards on collapsible easels were probably thought too dangerous for use with very young children.

Once we could draw our letters on loose boards the way was opened up for learning cursive writing, first with a pencil and then with pen and ink. The latter was inclined to be a messy business. The pens were all of the steel variety in wooden holders; the ink was made up in bulk by adding water to ink-powder, and was distributed round the class from special long-spouted dispensers into small pottery inkwells set in suitable holes in the desk tops, or into 'safety' glass inkwells which spilled very little of their contents when overturned. Naturally only older infants or young juniors graduated to the use of the pen, and as by then boredom had set in for quite a few, inkwells were considered suitable containers for odd scraps of paper or whatever, and the contents were more frequently solid than liquid. Hand-writing was taught by rule, and efforts at individuality frowned upon. Special writing paper was provided, printed with a red line over two blue ones. The blue lines were set apart at the required distance for small letters, while capitals had to reach almost up to the red line. The rules insisted that pressure be exerted on all downward strokes, but never on upward ones. Loops were insisted upon for b, f, g, h, j, k, l, y and z, and one of the greatest difficulties was to avoid ink blots inside the loops. There was no nonsense allowed about left-handedness; writing had to be accomplished with the right hand willy-nilly.

By far the majority of us could read by the age of seven, though the range of material was rather more restricted than nowadays. 'Readers' were our main source, graduated in difficulty as we progressed. Each reader was divided into separate items which might include poems as well as stories and informative pieces, each one bearing a superscription of the new words included in the test. At the infant level, however, we relied for our stories mainly on the skill of the teacher as story-teller.

As soon as numbers could be recognised and counting started, then the reading of the clock face followed, and the learning of tables was embarked upon with vigour. Chanting tables in unison may have been a crude way of learning, but I have a sneaking suspicion that, for most of us, the end justified the means in so far that, later on, multiplication became more a matter of rote than of thought.

There were other activities beside the Three R's. We learned to sing after a fashion, accompanying many of our games with a cheerful noise, though the inevitable 'grunters' were bidden to be silent when we sang more formally. We were certainly taught to knit, for I well remember submitting for approval a tangled web of wool which should have taken the form of a rectangular flat-holder. We cut shapes out of coloured papers, played around with plasticene, and made pictures of chalk, pencil, and water-paint. There were rarely more than three colours available at any one time, and these were measured out in careful spoonsful from a mixture of powder and water made up previously by the teacher. Each desk was provided with a china palette, a kind of saucer divided into three sections, and each child was given a large camel-hair brush with a handle about four or five inches long. Our efforts were confined to rather small pieces of paper, though we were let loose on bolder schemes if we brought a roll of wallpaper from home to practise on. On the whole, though, such riotous use of material was frowned upon in the interests of economy, except perhaps

at Christmas time, when normal activities were suspended for a day or two. Much more in line with normal practice were our first efforts in pattern making. The drill was as follows:– Dip the brush into the paint and allow any excess to drip back into the palette; gently transfer the brush, held in the right hand, over the sheet of paper provided; then follow the orders of the teacher "Tip press-Heel up", and lo! there was an imprint like a flower petal! Repeat the drill to form flower patterns.

We spent the majority of our time seated at tiny desks. Restlessness resulted in such orders as "Hands on heads", "Arms folded", "Arms behind backs" – any subsequent movement being punished by being made to stand in the corner or stay behind after school. But Higher Authority insisted that some part of each morning should be devoted to exercise; hence the daily 'Drill' lessons. These were conducted on military lines, with the class formed up in neat rows, the teacher issuing orders in a sergeant-major-like style. By the time we reached the main school we were ready to respond to such complicated orders as:– "AttenSHUN – Arms BEND – Left foot outwards in lunge position PLACE-Foot recover PLACE – AttenSHUN!"

Life in the Junior School

The main school catered for all children between the ages of seven and fourteen, and occupied the two-storied block of buildings adjoining the Infants' School. Girls occupied the upper floor, boys the lower. There were seven classes in each department, five in separate classrooms, and two accommodated in the central Hall, which was divided up by heavy movable glazed screens. Discipline was fairly harsh according to modern standards, the cane being resorted to for all manner of misdemeanours. To regard school as anything more than a place of detention would have been considered unnatural. Rewards for good work usually consisted of early release from the classroom at mid-day or four p.m. Sometimes, when a whole class was considered to be worth encouragement, they were released up to ten minutes early at the end of afternoon session.

This was the usual reward for the class with the best attendance record for the previous week. Great stress was laid upon numbers attending. The Local Authority employed special Attendance Officers whose duty was to follow up cases of absence, and to initiate legal sanctions where excuses were inadequate. The calling of the register was the first item in the routine of every session, and the closing of the register precisely on time was considered of the greatest importance. The first duty of visiting managers or local inspectors was to check the registers, and great was the furore if any discrepancy was discovered. On Friday afternoons the lessons were always such as to leave the class teacher free to work out the percentage attendance for the week, their mathematics being checked meticulously by the headmaster, and woe betide any young teacher who was caught in error. No alterations were allowed unless carefully initialled by the headmaster. The class with the best percentage was presented with a banner at the school assembly on Monday morning, to be displayed prominently in the classroom for the following week.

The school day began with a compulsory religious service conducted by the headmaster in the assembly hall. The form of service to be used was set out in 'Service Books', which also provided a selection of suitable hymns. Our headmaster usually used the occasion to administer public praise or punishment, and concluded the proceedings by announcing the Golden Rule for the day.

INFANTS' SCHOOL LOG BOOK - 1907

Report made by H. M. I. (Mr. Elliott):

"The Infants are happy and well behaved and much of the instruction is careful and suitable. The older children are making good progress in their reading and I am glad to see that an effort is being made to train them to sit in a proper posture especially during the writing exercises. The teachers evidently work hard but more might be done to encourage individual effort and the children should speak more freely in the oral lessons.
The Offices [i.e. the lavatories] are inconveniently arranged and some structural alteration seems desirable."

EASTON INFANTS' SCHOOL STAFF - 1905

Head: Miss L. Tucker
Miss A. Pergeter "a she-dragon to my childish imagination"
Miss E. Esworthy "somewhat of an invalid who had to take unpalatable medicine drops in lumps of sugar at intervals"
Miss M. Middleton
Miss B. Sampson
Miss H. Davies
Miss M. Watts
Miss M. Hallett
Miss H. Goff

PUNISHMENT BOOK

Two to four strokes were often given. Between 1907 - 1910, the following were reasons given for caning boys:

Truanting; Running home; Fighting;
Careless work; Impudence;
Stealing flowers; Untidiness;
Talking; Breaking windows;
Playing ball; Climbing walls;
Climbing closets; Inattention;
Lateness; Bad language;
Singing in class; Stone throwing;
Stealing; Very dirty appearance.

"Take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves" sticks in my mind as a typical gem of wisdom.

Much of the instruction was very formal; for one thing, the school furniture was very heavy and not easily re-arranged, so we sat in our allotted positions from year's end to year's end. Each day began with a Scripture lesson during which set sections of the Bible had to be studied and portions of Scripture learned by heart. This part of the curriculum was inspected once a year by special visitors, and if the inspection was considered satisfactory (it always was) a half-day's holiday was declared.

The bulk of the work in the Three R's was done during the morning session. Arithmetic included the continued learning of multiplication tables, tables of weights and measures, and various methods used to improve speed in calculation. Mental Arithmetic encouraged the use of all kinds of short methods; for instance, a dozen at so many pence cost the same number of shillings – to multiply by 25 add two noughts and divide by 4 – 100 articles at 3¾d. cost 100 times four pence less 25 pence – and so on. The quickest-witted of us became quite adept at dealing with problems mentally, the general average being higher than it is today in my opinion. On the other hand we spent many fruitless hours working out ridiculous 'problems' such as the following: – "A tank contains 24 gallons

BOYS' SCHOOL LOG BOOK - 1909

H.M.I.'s Report:

".... Too much of (the teachers') energy, however, is devoted to imparting information which the boys would be more profitably employed in finding out for themselves ... insufficient attention is given to the manner in which the various exercises are performed .... Too much of the reading lesson is devoted to the teaching of spelling, and much of the time given to unnecessary details in Grammar, would be better occupied in improving the boys' power of speech ... too much use is made of dictation ... in the lower classes there is an unnecessary amount of written arithmetic. The oral lesson given to the younger children should be used to develop their powers of observation and expression and to arouse an interest in the things around them rather than to store their memories with details .... the methods of instruction are scarcely calculated to train the boys to think and acquire habits of self-reliance and independent work ... the Head Teacher might with advantage take a much larger share in the instruction of the older boys."

EASTON BOARD SCHOOL STAFF - 1907

Head:	Mr. W. Slocombe	"a remote figure who did not teach except in emergencies"
	Mr. E. Howell	"Cocky" (Standard 5)
	Mr. A. Agar	"Dicky" (Standard 3) "ruled with a strident voice and a whippy cane"
	Mr. E. Willis	"Dan" (Standard 7) "later taught at Cotham Secondary School"
	Mr. H. Veator	(Standard 6)
	Mr. C. Cooke	(Standard 4) "a born teacher with a real interest in his charges, later a head teacher in Bristol"
	Miss G. Jordan	"a fashion-conscious madam whom I chiefly remember for her striking hats and a 'hobble' skirt (Standard 2)
	Miss E. Grant	
	Miss E. Shepherd	
	Mrs. E. Sloman	"A motherly figure (Standard 3)"
	Mr. H. Williams	
	Mr. B. Lewis	
	Mr. M. Bunbury	

of water. One pipe fills it at the rate of 600 gallons an hour. Another pipe empties it at the rate of 500 gallons an hour. How much water will the tank contain after the lapse of 20 minutes?"

English lessons included quite a lot of formal grammar, besides regular practice in composition, spelling, dictation and letter writing. By the age of 10, any boy worth his salt could write a decent letter, spell with reasonable accuracy, and write a legible hand. 'History' comprised mainly stories taken from a source like *Our Island Story,* interest being high or low according to the capacity of the teacher as reader or story teller, 'Geography' also relied a great deal on oral description, though the majority of the work concerned familiarity with large wall maps on the Mercator Projection, in which the British Empire loomed in large red patches. Once a year Empire Day was celebrated with the singing of patriotic songs followed by a days' holiday.

The growing public interest in Science was beginning to make itself felt even at the level of Elementary Schools. At first, 'Object Lessons' filled the bill – objects provided by the teacher were discussed at length according to a programme set out in detail by the headmaster. Collections of interesting objects were built up in a kind of museum-cupboard, and weird and wonderful were some of the collections. Later on the Local Authority built up a supply of sophisticated apparatus in a centralised collection, and peripatetic teachers would arrive at the school to give demonstration lessons on such topics as 'Air Pressure' and the 'Making of Barometers'. These visits were highlights in the school year.

The cloakrooms in the main school included washing facilities in the form of a row of earthenware wash-basins with cold water taps only. The taps had spring plungers so that there was no danger of water wastage, and the basin plugs were also non-detachable affairs, to discourage theft; but why so much thought was devoted to misuse I could never make out, for I never saw the basins used for ablution. For one thing, there was no soap available, and for another, the single roller towel appeared only occasionally. The basins were used, certainly, but for the washing of inkwells and not of hands.

Child Psychology was beginning to occupy the attention of educationalists, and student teachers were sometimes required to make a detailed study of individual children. I was myself the subject of one such study, and spent some time answering intimate questions as to my home background. Had my parents been aware of the kind of questioning that went on I imagine there would have been complaints about invasion of privacy. I wonder where all those details finally found a resting place!

Student teachers had a hard time. Unable to administer any form of corporal punishment in a situation where it was normal practice, they had to rely on their own personality to maintain discipline. Many failed under the strain, particularly as we youngsters considered them fair game. I remember one student, known to us merely as "Teacher Arthur", having to be escorted each day from the school by members of staff, for fear he might be attacked.

In spite of all, however, our school did reasonably well by us. Each year three or four pupils passed the entrance examination for grammar schools, held at about Standard 5 level. The rest stayed on until the age of fourteen, though it was possible to gain early release at the age of thirteen by passing the 'Labour Exam'. We enjoyed no playing fields: if we wished to play games we did it in out-of-school time, with occasional help from some teacher willing to give up

his spare time for the purpose of accompanying us to the local parks, where we played cricket or football on pitches practically devoid of grass. It is worth recording that such volunteers were never lacking, and were amongst the most popular of the staff. On the whole we respected our teachers, and occasionally they earned our affection. 'Cocky' Howell may have been grim, but we knew his bark was worse than his bite. 'Dicky' Agar in Standard 3 may have wielded his cane rather more frequently than desirable, but he made sure that if you possessed any scholastic ability at all, you developed it in time to profit by the selection examination for Secondary Schools. Headmaster Slocombe was inevitably nick-named 'Slogem', but his job was no sinecure, and his punishments were usually well-merited. But no-one had anything but admiration for Mr. Cooke of Standard 4, while 'Dan' Willis of Standard 7 was beloved as well as respected. Yes! They were a good bunch!

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Mr. Wadham, the headmaster of Bannerman Road School (as it is today), for permission to quote extracts from the school log-books and from a letter written to him by Mr. Harold Brown.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ST THOMAS THE MARTYR, BRISTOL

by Michael S. Manson

As a place of official worship, the church of St Thomas the Martyr after 800 years use is defunct. This is not because the building is old; indeed the fabric of the church is in good condition-much of it has only recently been redecorated - it is just that the number of parishioners has dwindled away to nothing. In the week-time the parish of St Thomas is busy – it's an area of thriving wholesale warehouses, the air sweetened by Courage's brewery - but at the weekend it's deserted. Very few people live in central Bristol anymore.

So the church of St Thomas stands empty. From the outside it looks hardly special, a simple classical body tacked on to a plain medieval tower. But go inside and you will be surprised. It's big, it's light and it's elegant. The architecture is of straightforward classical style and there is an imposing gallery on Roman Doric columns of oak at the west end. Now there's quite a bit of classical church architecture in Bristol but most of it is Victorian; this predates the likes of Brandon Hill and St Mary-on-the-Quay by at least 40 years.

But the visitor should not be mislead by this fine interior for the origins of the church are of course much older. In fact a mystery lingers over the building, for why was it ever constructed when there was a Gothic church on the site already? Barrett, Bristol's first real historian and a contemporary of the original church, describes the first St Thomas' as "next to Redcliff, the largest as well as most elegant building ....." [1] To liken it to St Mary Redcliffe is no mean compliment. Unfortunately we have little other evidence to confirm Barrett's opinion.

To my knowledge - it would be interesting for it to be proved otherwise - no detailed or specific picture of the original church exists. The only graphic representations that we have of the former building are to be found in general panoramas of the city and these mostly feature merely the unexeptional tower. Only Millerd's topographical pictures of 1673 tell us more. His thumbnail sketch does show one feature that would now be unique in Bristol's churches, for St Thomas's had a Gothic lantern or cupola on the roof of the nave.

A lantern, in architectural terms, refers to a small tower erected on the nave for extra illumination. From the writing of William of Worcester it has been understood that St Mary Redcliffe at one time also had a similar tower which was removed, so C. S. Taylor suggests, when the roof was groined. [2] However, from inspection of both Millerd's maps and Kipp's topographical view of Bristol in 1717 I can only feel that perhaps Barrett was being somewhat over enthusiastic in his description of St Thomas'.

Thumbnail sketches aside what else do we know about the early church? Like Redcliffe it was a chapel to the Bedminster church and its date of establishment can be put to about the 1170's - a time when the population gathered round the south of Bristol Bridge was expanding because of the prosperity of the wool trade. St Thomas of Canterbury was martyred on the 29th December

1170 and the scandalous manner of his death, as well as the fact that, as Chancellor, Becket had issued the earliest charter of Bristol, would account for the dedication. Further pointers to its date of origin comes from the Norman chevron work that is said to be on the tower (though I couldn't find it on my visit!)[3]

A few hundred years later, during Henry VIII's vendetta with Rome, the dedication to St Thomas the Martyr caused problems. By statute it was ordered that "St Thomas of Canterbury should not be esteemed or called a saint; that all images of him should be destroyed, the festival in his honour be abolished. and his name and rememberance be erased out of all books, under pain of his majesty's indignation and imprisonment at his grace's pleasure". Accordingly in 1566 Apostle was substituted for Martyr.[4]

The church has other important connections. The parishes of medieaval south Bristol are inextricably interwoven with the history of that great dynasty of merchants, the Canynges family. This is supposedly especially strong with St Mary Redcliffe. It therefore comes as a surprise to find that three of the four most powerful generations of the family were buried in the chapel of the Blessed Mary in the church of St Thomas. It is only the last of the great Canynges, William, who has a tomb in Elizabeth I's "famous parish church". Likewise with William Penn, the hero of the Dutch Wars and friend of Samuel Pepys; his armour may hang in St Mary's but remember he was baptised in St Thomas' in 1621.

But why was there a need for the church to be rebuilt in 1789? The theory is put forward by Taylor that the vestry had a large sum of money (£1,500) burning a hole in its pocket. What better use than to build a new church in the classical style? Taylor points out that the vicar was not at the preliminary planning meetings and perhaps, before he knew it, very radical changes were being proposed[5]. However, one must not underplay the condition of the building, for it was in a very poor state. Simple redecoration in 1786 had revealed serious faults and upon further inspection, builders recommended that the roof and part of the walls be taken down[6]. This would suggest that reconstruction was not so much a whim to be up with the latest styles, but more a necessity for safety. Besides the £1,500 in the vestry coffers only accounted for one quarter of the cost of rebuilding.

So over the next four years the church was demolished and rebuilt. James Allen, a local architect who lived in Thomas Street, was responsible for overseeing the operation. The walls were gunpowdered (so local tradition has it) and the nave was shortened by 32ft. The tower, despite its slight tilt, was judged as safe; it was merely tidied up and remained essentially unaltered. Thankfully Allen's brief was to retain some of the choicer internal fixtures of the old church. Thus the pillared organ gallery of 1728, along with the impressive Flemish oak altar screen of 1716 and the Carolian Coat of Arms (1637) remain to be admired today.

The works were virtually completed in time for an inaugural service on 21st December 1793. 1793 was a difficult year for builders: the commission did little to help James Allen's career and in the same year he was reported as

bankrupt. It is a shame, for as one of the authors of *An Architectural History of Bristol* writes "I wish we had more work by Allen".[7] Allen is later heard of in 1797 employed on restoration work at St Mary Redcliffe.

The last service to be held in this elegant church was a service of carols on the 19th December 1982. We must now look forward to the future and a new suitable use to the building. A building becomes a mere corpse if it remains unused. Decay sets in quickly. Already the tell-tale buddleia sprouts from the guttering. Times have changed and the building must change with them. Otherwise, the church of St Thomas the Martyr may go the way of its patron and be cut down well before its useful life has ended.

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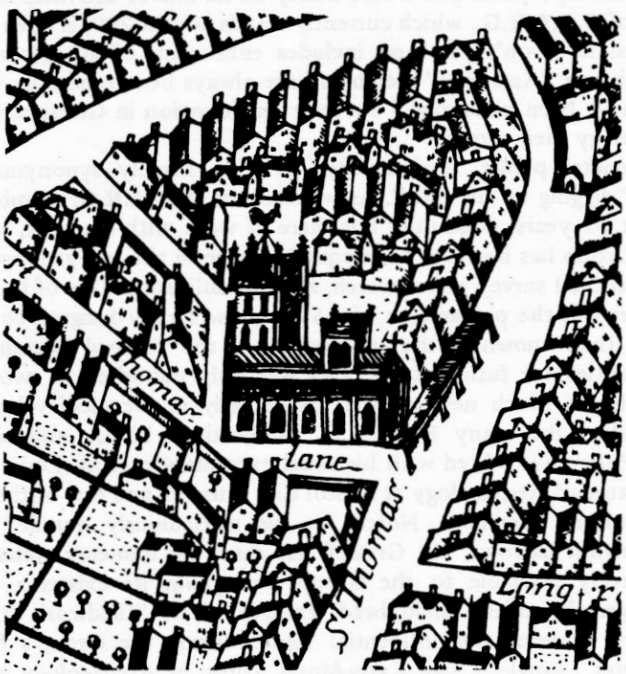


The view of St. Thomas from Jacobus Millerd's *Plan of Bristol,* 1673, appears by courtesy of Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery.

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES:
THE BRISTOL AND AVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

The Bristol Archaeological Research Group was founded on 7th March, 1962, with the aim of giving improved direction to local fieldwork and research at a time when unprecedented demands were being placed on archaeologists, both by advances within the discipline itself and by the increasing pace of post-war development. The Group originally set out to cover the "Bristol Region", an area described as extending from the Stroud Valley to the Mendips and from the river Severn to the S. Cotswolds. Since 1973 this "area of interest" has been more conveniently defined by the boundaries of the new County of Avon, a fact reflected by the Group's change of name in 1981.

While the Group's founding members were predominantly local amateurs, the staffs of Bristol City Museum and Bristol University were also well represented, thus establishing a tradition of friendly co-operation between professional, academic and part-time archaeologists which has continued throughout the Group's history. The Group has developed particularly close links with the Department of Archaeology and History at the City Museum, where it is based for administrative purposes and where nearly all its indoor activities take place. Membership of B.A.A.R.G., which currently stands at over 200, is open to everyone interested in Avon's past and includes enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds. Junior or "Associate" members have always been especially welcome, and several have been encouraged by their participation in Group activities to make archaeology their career.

To the general public "archaeology" is still virtually synonymous with excavation - "digging up the past". As we shall see, B.A.A.R.G. members have, over the past 21 years, done their fair share of work with mattock, spade and trowel. The Group has however been equally active in the less glamorous fields of non-excavational survey and research, and of publication. One of the Group's first objectives was the preparation of a *Survey and Policy* designed to summarise what was then known of the archaeology of the "Bristol Region" and to establish priorities for future study. This was duly published in two parts in 1964-5 and broke much new ground, particularly in the medieval and post-medieval fields. Like many B.A.A.R.G. publications before and since, the *Survey and Policy* was edited with his usual exemplary care by Leslie Grinsell, the then Curator of Archaeology at Bristol City Museum and one of the Group's most distinguished members. Noted for his meticulously detailed regional surveys of English barrows, Mr. Grinsell has made his immense archaeological experience freely available to the Group throughout its existence, and has contributed greatly to the undoubted strength of its "fieldwork tradition".

An equally forceful and influential figure during the Group's formative years was Peter Fowler, the Extra-Mural Tutor in Archaeology at Bristol University from 1965 until 1979, when he took up his current appointment as Secretary to the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England.

An outstanding exponent, like Leslie Grinsell, of non-excavational fieldwork, Dr. Fowler proved during his years at Bristol to be equally talented as a witty and frequently provocative propagandist and popularizer, doing much both locally and nationally to advance the cause of "rescue archaeology". As a result of Peter Fowler's encouragement the Group played a major part, between 1969 and 1971, in the "M5 Project", designed to examine archaeologically the route of the new motorway as it ploughed southwards through Gloucestershire and Somerset. This classic "rescue" exercise comprised the initial surface examination (including an aerial survey by Jim Hancock) of the motorway route, followed by further fieldwork during the early stages of clearance and construction and (where possible) excavation of any sites discovered thereby. These were challenging and exciting years for the active members of the Group, who were involved in the investigation, often under extremely difficult conditions, of a considerable number of sites including an Iron Age cemetery at Christon and a series of Roman and medieval settlements in the S. Gloucestershire claylands.

By the end of 1970, work on the M5 within the Group's area was largely complete, giving rise to a good deal of discussion among members as to how best to sustain and harness the interest which the project had created. One result of this debate was the establishment, under the guidance of Peter Fowler and Francis Neale, of a "Parish Survey Unit", with the aim of compiling parochial checklists of antiquities along the lines of those already being produced by the Cornwall Archaeological Society. A "parish survey" involves the comprehensive listing of archaeologically significant buildings and features (including field-names) on standard record sheets and a numbered 6-inch O.S. map; the information thus collected is then reduced to an abbreviated checklist format for publication. Despite the demanding nature of this work, which entails much documentary research as well as extensive fieldwalking, a substantial number of members have risen to the challenge, and checklists for 15 parishes have so far been published, while others are in the final stages of completion. Members have also been involved since the early 1970's in a variety of more specialised field-work projects. In central Bristol several church and chapel graveyards threatened by redevelopment have been recorded in detail, as have the equally vulnerable boundary-marks delimiting the inner-city parishes. Measured plans have also been prepared of earthworks in the Kingswood and Dundry areas and of the extensive "celtic" field systems on Durdham Down and in Ashton Park, while in North Avon Mrs. Linda Hall has carried out a major survey of vernacular architecture, now handsomely published by Bristol City Museum.

As the M5 project amply demonstrated, no part of the Bristol region can safely be regarded as devoid of ancient settlement. The monitoring of new road-works, pipe-trenches and building operations has long been a major function of B.A.A.R.G., and a number of important discoveries have been made by keen-eyed members "looking down holes". In 1968, for example, two Bronze Age skeletons, with bronze spear-points embedded in them, were found by Richard Knight and his family in a gas-pipe trench at Tormarton, while in 1976 a rare late Roman buckle was discovered in similar circumstances at

Stockwood by Mrs. Pauline Belsey. The Group's most pertinacious "hole-watcher" in recent years has almost certainly been John Hunt, who among other finds was responsible in 1977 for the identification during building work of an extensive Roman settlement at Stoke Gifford, subsequently jointly excavated by members of B.A.A.R.G. and Bristol University. In the summer of 1982 the levelling of Avon County Council of a number of school playing fields on the outskirts of Bristol led to the uncovering of three more Roman sites, of which two, a small cemetery at Henbury and a settlement at Lawrence Weston, were again located by John Hunt, while a third, at Filwood Park, was found by the Group's current Vice-Chairman, Bob Williams. All three sites would probably have been lost to archaeology had it not been for the vigilance of these dedicated part-time fieldworkers.

A full-scale archaeological excavation carried out to modern standards is inevitably a costly, complex and time-consuming operation. In view of this B.A.A.R.G. has rarely attempted to organise major excavations on its own account. Members have nevertheless frequently assisted on digs arranged by Bristol City Museum and other archaeological bodies, as well as undertaking a number of small-scale excavations on sites discovered during "hole watching" or otherwise threatened by building developments. Examples of the latter not already mentioned include Roman burials and ditches at Cheddar (1965), Roman and medieval sites in the Whitchurch area (1974), the inner town wall of Bristol in Baldwin Street (1974), a medieval and later urban site in St. Mary's Street, Thornbury (1981), and the enigmatic "camp" at Oldbury-on-Severn (1982). In order to equip members with the necessary skills for such rescue work, several training excavations have also been organised. The first and most ambitious of these training exercises took place between 1966 and 1975 on a multi-phase Iron Age and Roman farmstead at Butcombe, under the direction of Peter Fowler. In 1969 an excavation designed specially to train "associate" members was carried out on a small urban site in Rupert Street, Bristol. Since 1980 training excavations have taken place every summer under the supervision of Michael Ponsford, the Field Archaeologist at Bristol City Museum and the Group's Fieldwork Advisor. For the last two years work has been in progress on an 11th to 13th century settlement at Bickley, Cleeve, the property of an active B.A.A.R.G. member, Mrs. Mary Campbell.

The first publication by the Group was, appropriately enough, a treatise on the art of publication itself. The *Preparation of Archaeological Reports*, based on a series of lectures by Leslie Grinsell, Philip Rahtz and Alan Warhurst, was published in duplicated form in 1962 and attracted nationwide interest and acclaim, being reissued commercially by John Baker in 1966. It was followed in 1964-5 by the *Survey and Policy*, already mentioned, and in 1966 by the first of a series of *Field Guides* designed to provide a concise introduction to the visible archaeological sites of the Bristol area from prehistory to the Industrial Revolution. Under Leslie Grinsell's admirable editorship five *Field Guides* were issued between 1966 and 1980, together with, in 1970, an important collection of essays on the *Mendip Hills in Prehistoric and Roman Times*. The Group's main organ of communication with its members has always

been the *B.A.A.R.G. Bulletin,* issued three times a year. Until 1979 the *Bulletin* contained, in addition to Group news, a variety of substantial articles, including Paris Survey checklists. In 1980 the *Bulletin* reverted to being a simple newsletter, major articles being henceforward published in a more permanent format in the annual *B.A.A.R.G. Review,* edited by Rob Iles. Two issues of the *Review* were published before it was replaced, in 1982, by the first volume of *Bristol and Avon Archaeology,* a more attractively produced journal which will in future give members the chance to have their work published to academically acceptable standards.

As its name implies, B:A.A.R.G. started life as a relatively small group of dedicated and self-motivated enthusiasts. This was reflected, in the Group's early years, by a somewhat spartan programme of formal activities which seem to have consisted of little more than the A.G.M., occasional training courses and a few talks and excursions for junior members. As membership increased in the late 1960's this limited range of events was slowly expanded and diversified; an annual symposium of members work was introduced in 1965, followed in 1968-1968-9 by the first series of winter lectures by outside speakers. In 1969 a group of "associate" members began meeting regularly on Thursday evenings in the City Museum basement to clean and study finds from excavations. These meetings have continued to the present day and now provide a weekly rendezvous for keen B.A.A.R.G. members of all ages; in the last few years steps have been taken to broaden the appeal of "Thursday nights" by the introduction of regular lectures and training sessions. In recent years, too, a variety of other events, such as conducted walks, coach-trips (currently arranged in association with the Stoke Lodge Archaeology Group), skittles matches and social evenings have been added to make up the very full programme which B.A.A.R.G. now offers its membership.

In 1962 B.A.A.R.G. came into existence to fill what was virtually an archaeological vacuum in the Bristol area. Today the local archaeological scene is both more active and more crowded. Industrial archaeology, for example, which was originally included in the Group's terms of reference, has since 1967 been admirably catered for by B.I..A.S. Similarly, the Group's original role of coordination and liaison has since 1973 been shared to varying extents by the A.A.C., by the Conservation Section of Avon County Planning Department and by C.R.A.A.G.S. (now W.A.T.). Throughout the B.A.A.R.G. area a large number of active local groups, both archaeological and historical, has sprung up to supplement the handful in being in 1962. Over the past 21 years the Group itself has inevitably changed somewhat both in composition and in character, taking on, as its membership has increased, many of the attributes of a "traditional" archaeological society. To the present writer such a change seems not only inevitable but desirable: if the Group is to flourish and to draw in new talent and enthusiasm it must broaden still further its base of support and present a more open and welcoming face to the general public. It can do this both by continuing to improve the content and organisation of its activities and by better publicity (never the Group's strongest point in the past!). Such

developments within B.A.A.R.G. need do nothing to impair its traditional role as a true "research group", providing a forum wherein the keen amateur archaeologist can meet and exchange views with his professional counterparts, to their mutual benefit.

James Russell

(Further information concerning B.A.A.R.G. membership and publications can be obtained from:- The Hon. Secretary, B.A.A.R.G., c/o Bristol City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol. BS8 1RL).

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BRISTOL'S OTHER HISTORY

edited by Ian Bild

160pp. Bristol: Bristol Broadsides, 1983. £2.75 (within Bristol) £3.50 (outside Bristol).

This collection of six studies is not the sort of frothy confection sometimes produced to stimulate the literary palates of those who confuse nostalgia with local history. This volume both stimulates *and* satisfies and should therefore be welcomed by both local historians and students of politics.

Information on some of the topics so thoroughly researched in these pages is not otherwise readily accessible. Stephen Humphries, dealing with "Radical Childhood in Bristol, 1889-1939", apart from writing on the familiar theme of truancy, devotes attention to the far less well-known story of school strikes. His paper is based on the testimony of those - more often than not on the receiving end of the cane - whose comments on the educational system are not enshrined in official records. This is an intriguing study of a system of schooling which was at best a benevolent despotism and at worst an uncaring repression.

Bob Whitfield's "Trade Unionism in Bristol, 1910 - 1926" is an invaluable aid to the study of developing general trade unionism and its spheres of influence. Firms which appeared almost impregnable strongholds of paternalism became unionised not so much by "fifth columnists" within, but by the "enemy" from without, in the shape of transport workers delivering raw materials.

Even in this present time we tend either to forget or under-estimate the contribution of women pioneers in social and political causes. Ellen Malos

writing on "Bristol Women in Action, 1839-1919", a moving story of relentless struggle against daunting odds and vicious opposition, does much to put the record into a just perspective so far as the women of Bristol are concerned.

"People's Housing in Bristol, 1870-1939", by Madge Dresser graphically describes the legacy of working class housing and "crowded haunts of vice and crime" at the start of her chosen period. It catalogues the efforts of private philanthropy and enterprise and (sometimes reluctant) municipal endeavour to deal with the problems against a background of industrial and social change. The writer might perhaps link her research with some interesting work being done at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology on the same subject but treating it from a primarily architectural standpoint. Sometimes, through no fault of their own, local historians fail to establish a fruitful line of communication with those working in other disciplines and, in relation to the paper under review the ground is well prepared for some future collaborative effort.

Sally Mullen commemorating "The Bristol Socialist Society, 1885-1916" is timely in print for a centenary notice. Remarkably well does she distil the essential philosophy of this improbable band of charismatic socialists whose particular strand of libertarian idealism has been printed out of the subsequent pattern of the development of the Labour movement by electoral preoccupations. Born in song, poetry and dance and nurtured on a diet of Whitman, Emerson and Thoreau, along with Edward Carpenter contributing "New Life" philosophy, they determined, seemingly by force of love alone, to exalt Bristolians into the Socialist Kingdom of Heaven. After nearly one hundred years it must be conceded that they failed. Yet their influence was diffuse and the contribution of some of their members to wider movements was considerable. They marched to a different music, the score of which is lost awhile.

The same contributor also gives us a delightful study of John Wall (1858 - 1914) based largely on original documentary material hitherto unused. By any standards Wall, a shoemaker by profession, was a remarkable man - Christian Socialist, Trade Union organiser, Co-operative pioneer, story-writer, medievalist and poet of compassion. Many elderly folk in the Kingswood area at least would confirm his sensitive evocation of conditions in the small boot factories of his period. Praise be indeed for his preservation of documents and ephemera and deep gratitude to his surviving daughter's guardianship of them.

Bristolians should take due pride in this well-written and well-illustrated record of things in their history too often forgotten. It is presumably to make them even more conscious of their indebtedness that they are allowed a 'discount' of seventy-five pence on the purchase price, somewhat Uncommon Marketing especially for a book so much devoted to socialist themes and struggles to break down class barriers. However, anyone outside the pale of the present city boundaries may rest assured that the small extra payment demanded of them will bring a fascinating reward and a book which should, after first reading, find a permanent place on their shelves.

Roy King.

THE PRINCE'S OF PARK ROW

by Don Carleton

30pp; illus, Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1983

(Local History Pamphlet, 55) 90p.

The building was a Bristol theatre. It opened on October 14th, 1867, and "closed" - destroyed by enemy bombs - on November 24th, 1940. To younger, even middle-aged Bristolians the name of that theatre will mean little or nothing. But to an older generation it is one that still has the power to conjure up endless memories of colour and magic.

That theatre was the Prince's, situated in Park Row. And now - 43 years after its destruction - the full span of its history has been chronicled on paper for the first time, in a pamphlet by Don Carleton, Information Officer of Bristol University. Local newspapers and various published biographies, personal reminiscences and a number of unpublished letters, plus programmes and other memorabilia from the theatre itself form the basis of his enjoyable piece of research.

The Prince's, as he explains, started life as the New Theatre Royal, and was the baby of James Henry Chute, "an imposing man with large Dundreary whiskers", and a typically energetic Victorian. Chute is the name above all others with which the Prince's is associated, for when J.H. died the theatre passed to his sons George and James and, later still, to the latter's widow. From the first, therefore, it was a family establishment, and the feelings of the Chutes towards it were familial in the strongest sense. Their employees and staff were not just staff; they were more like family retainers.

And it was a family establishment in another sense too, a place where a man might take his wife and daughters without fear that the entertainment on offer would be anything other than clean and wholesome. For the theatre, to its founder, was an extension of the pulpit. "We preach here six times a week," J.H.C. told his audience on the Prince's very first night, "and preach strict morality and the principles of virtue in a more pleasing form than they are often taught elsewhere." The Victorian theatre had an enormous amount of puritanical disapproval to overcome.

Great actors from Irving downwards appeared at the Prince's at one time or another. It had for several years its own resident or "stock" company; it provided a venue for touring companies like D'Oyly Carte. But its special glory in its earlier days were its pantomimes, which drew huge audiences from miles around and were shows of considerable merit. Don Carleton is able to quote in this context no less a figure than George Bernard Shaw. The Bristol pantomime, Shaw declared, was ten times as artistic - and was mounted at one-tenth of the cost - of an equivalent pantomime in London.

Shaw's remarks related to the pantomime of 1899, and there is no doubt that the golden age of the Prince's was the period leading up to 1914. But after the First World War there came a decline. Now, like every other theatre in the country, it faced competition from new - alternative - forms of entertainment:

the wireless, the gramophone, above all the cinema. And it was only at the outbreak of World War II, when the government closed the London theatres, and London actors and managements needed venues elsewhere, that the Prince's revived to enjoy an all-too-brief final fling comparable in quality to its late-Victorian and Edwardian heyday.

To cover in just 30 pages the history of any building that throbbed with life for 73 years, no author can do more than touch on his subject. Don Carleton has touched on *his* subject pretty well.

Tony Joseph.

TRADE UNIONS IN BRISTOL.

by Brian Atkinson

28pp; Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1982. 80p

The history of the working folk of nineteenth century Bristol has generally been neglected so a warm welcome must be extended to Brian Atkinson's scholarly examination of the growth of trade unionism in the city from the 1860's to 1914. He provides a concise account of the vicissitudes of the main unions during these decades, well underpinned with the key facts about membership. By 1914 he estimates that about one in five of employed males were unionists. Sensibly, unlike some historians of trade unions, he poses squarely, and tries to answer, the question what did they achieve? His answer is basically an improvement in money wages and rather less obviously a narrowing of differentials between craftsmen and labourers to the advantage of the latter. What did not emerge among trade unionists, he claims, was any substantial evidence of a broader class consciousness transcending the barrier of skill and craft except at times of high drama such as the substantial labour revolt of 1889 or the conflicts of 1910 - 11. Some may wish to disagree. In his limited space Dr Atkinson has managed to pack in a remarkable amount of information. Those who wish to know more should consult his and Robert Whitfield's unpublished theses referred to in the notes on sources in this pamphlet which together provide a valuable account of many aspects of the Labour movement in Bristol between 1868 and 1939.

D Large

BRISTOL BLITZ DIARY

by John Dike

96pp.; illus. Bristol: Redcliffe Press, 1982. £2.95

This diary is a vivid documentary of the time from November 1940 to Easter 1941, when a short period of bombing resulted in the wholesale destruction of the shopping centre of Bristol and many historic buildings.

Other raids and damage of that time, including Avonmouth and the docks, are also covered.

The pictures show the ruins left behind after the raids. Many familiar landmarks were devastated. The odd comment helps those who were not there to realise the result of war. To those present, the full meaning, the destruction, the casualties, horror and fear will be remembered. Surprisingly, no mention is made of the weather; when fighting the fires, people had to cope with frozen water in the firemens' hose, due to the intense cold that winter.

The extracts from a personal diary give the life of one woman and her decision whether to take her family to, hopefully, a safe place in the country at night leaving her house for neighbours to look after, or stay at home with the fear of casualty in her own family. This was a question faced by many.

This book gives not only a list of data but follows it up with photographs. The comments of people involved in various incidents give the book human interest.

Jessie Sheppard

BOOKS RECEIVED

BETTEY, J., *ed. Calendar of the correspondence of the Smyth family of Ashton Court, 1548-1642* (Bristol Record Society, 1982, £9.00)

BETTEY, J. H. and TAYLOR, C.W.G. *Sacred and satiric: medieval stone carving in the West Country* (Redcliffe Press, 1982, £2.25)

CORNWELL, J. *Collieries of Kingswood and South Gloucestershire* (D. Brown & Son, 1983, £6.95)

EASON, H. *Bristol's historic inns* (Redcliffe Press, 1982, £2.75)

Historic landscape study of the manor of Englishcombe (Avon County Council Planning Department, 1983, 75p.)

LITTLE, B. *Bristol: the public view* (Redcliffe Press, 1982, £2.75)

LITTLE, B. *John Cabot: the reality* (Redcliffe Press, 1983, £1.50)

McGRATH, P. *The religious buildings of Keynsham* (Keynsham Civic Society and Saltford Local History Society, 1983, 90p.)

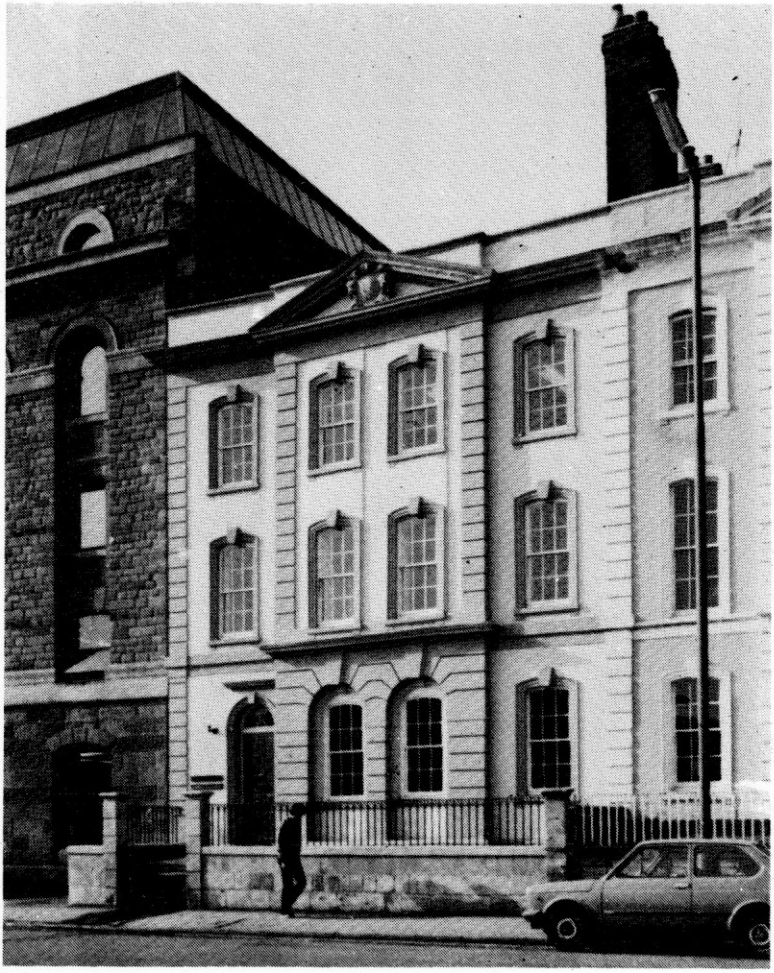
TANTUM, L. *The Ames family and the divorce that shocked Bristol* (The Author, 1983, 75p.)

TOMLINSON, C. *Isaac Rosenberg of Bristol* (Bristol Branch, Historical Association, 1982, 80p.)

VANES, J. *Education and apprenticeship in sixteenth century Bristol* (Bristol Branch, Historical Association, 1982, 80p.)

WILLIAMSON, B. *Westbury Park not so long ago* (The Author, 1983, 90p.)

A Conservation Project by
The J T Group



The Restoration of 70 Prince Street

A Grade II* listed Georgian house built in 1726 to a design by John Strahan has been completely renovated for new offices for the property division of the J T Group.

CONTENTS include:-

The Architects of Redland Court (now Redland High School).

The Caines Family of Oldland and Bitton and their part in the 'Cock Road gang'.

An early Alkali Works in Netham.

Easton Board School (now Bannerman Road School) in 1910

History of the Church of St. Thomas the Martyr, Bristol

Bristol and Avon Archaeological Research Group.

Book Reviews.

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